FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 MARCH 1987

Lebanon

Following his return to Tehran, Iranian Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi briefed the Iranian president on the "positive" results of his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, IRNA reported. Mohtashemi told Tehran radio that his talks in Damascus were linked to the "imperative need to discuss the problem of the Hizballah," noting that he informed Al-Asad of Iran's view that Hizballah should be allowed to keep its weapons for use against Israel and the United States. The Syrians expressed support for Hizballah's struggle with Israel, he said, and they agreed that arms should remain in the hands of Hizballah and all forces wishing to fight Israel.

Regarding Hizballah's armed presence in Beirut, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio noted PSP leader Walid Junblatt's remark that Syrian forces should deploy in the southern suburb "if fairness is to be observed and all paramilitary activities eliminated." In contrast, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, a Shi'ite cleric associated with Hizballah, stated that the Syrians will not enter the suburb because "peace and security" already prevail there, according to Voice of National Resistance radio. Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri said there are no security problems in the suburb, but he said the Shi'ite area would welcome the Syrians "when there is a solution for all of Greater Beirut or all of Lebanon," Beirut radio reported. Birri also expressed optimism about the fate of the four kidnapped Beirut University College professors. In Bonn, an FRG spokesman cited by DPA said his government has information that the two FRG hostages in Lebanon are still alive, contrary to a recent UAE press report.

Radio stations in East Beirut reported further clashes between Amal and Palestinian gunmen around the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps 9-10 March. According to Voice of Lebanon and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, 6 people were killed and 13 were injured.

Libya

The Syrian entry into Lebanon does not make "sense," Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi told Cologne ARD television, adding that Syria will recognize its "mistake" and "back down." The Libyan leader reiterated his stand against hijacking and hostage-taking; however, he warned that the next generation of Palestinians will be even more "desperate" and will "transport anger and terrorism" to the West.

Palestinian Affairs

Commenting on the *Achille Lauro* affair in an interview with Kuwait's *Al-Qabas*, Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) leader Muhammad 'Abbas stated that PLF fighters disguised as tourists used the ship on three previous occasions to enter the port of Ashdod for reconnaissance purposes. However, the fighters were "not so lucky during the actual operation" and were unable to carry out their planned "suicide operation" against the naval base in Ashdod. He reaffirmed his organization's intention of launching new attacks against Israel, asserting that "the next few months will witness qualitative, distinguished operations."

Israel

A subcommittee of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee will receive a briefing on the Pollard affair but it will have no power to summon witnesses, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir noted in a Jerusalem radio interview. Shamir deplored the "great fuss" about the affair in Israel and he warned that those who are "exaggerating and playing up the matter" are hindering the process of healing the damage in Israeli-U.S. relations. A related report by the radio spoke of a "freeze" in bilateral contacts, noting that there have been no high-level political contacts between the two countries since the U.S. court's verdict in the Pollard case. In remarks broadcast by IDF radio, Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon denied any personal involvement in the Pollard affair and he maintained that Israel has given "infinitely more" than it received in exchanges of information with the United States. Israel has only received a "minute fraction" of the information it needs from the United States, Sharon contended.

Kuwait

Twelve persons were indicted on charges of bombing, arson, and causing a riot, a State Security source told KUNA. All accused are Kuwaiti nationals except for one stateless person. Four others are still wanted. A trial date will be fixed by the Security Court president, the source added.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes raided another maritime target on 9 March, according to an Iraqi military spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses radio.

Arab Summit

The five Arab leaders who met in Kuwait last January agreed to hold an Arab summit before September, KUNA reported, citing the UAE paper *Al-Bayan*.

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South Asia

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Najibullah: Strong Possibility for Early Settlement
BK091222 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Feb 87 p 1, 8

[By Mushahid Hussain]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 25: In an exclusive interview with *The Muslim* in Kabul on February 22, the second, that the Head of the Kabul Regime has given to this newspaper in eight months, Dr Najib categorically stated that the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan does not want to be the monopolisor of power and we are prepared to share power and responsibilities in a government of national unity". Such a government, Dr Najib said, would follow the process of national reconciliation initiated last month. The PDPA has been the sole ruling party in Afghanistan since it came to power through a coup d'etat by leftwing military officers on April 27, 1978.

In a tone which was remarkably flexible and moderate, Dr Najib extended an olive branch to the Peshawar-based Mujahidin, saying that "we are prepared to talk directly with each one of them with a view to promoting national reconciliation and we are ready for compromises". While denying any contact with Zahir Shah, Dr Najib said there was a "role" for "anybody" in the future government.

In a significant retreat from previous positions, the Afghan leftist leader said that "We have never claimed to be socialist and we have never said that socialism is our goal". He also stated that Islam would be enshrined in the new constitution of Afghanistan as the state religion.

While reticent on the question of a new timetable for the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, he only said that it would be "very flexible". Other officials hinted that it may well be within a twelve month period.

The 45-minute interview took place in Dr Najib's sparsely furnished office at the headquarters of the PDPA Central Committee. The 40-year old heavyset Afghan leader was dressed in a navy blue suit with a matching tie on an immaculate white shirt. Unlike the previous interview in July 1986, which took place in the same office, there was no photograph of Babrak Karmal adorning the office and Dr Najib's dress, in civvies, was different from the Khaki uniform that he wore then.

He spoke softly and slowly in Persian after the customary greetings in Pushto-accented Urdu. He sometimes broke into English to correct his interpreter. During the interview, the windows at the Central Committee's first floor office were occasionally rattled by booming sounds of distant blasts. An unruffled Dr Najib continued sipping green tea. A party official later explained that the sounds were due to "blasting of stones for construction purposes".

During this visit, the third to Kabul in 18 months, the atmosphere in the Afghan capital exuded two kinds of feelings. First, an air of optimism and apprehension over the current crucial round of Geneva talks. The optimism is over the possibility of an early settlement, and apprehension is over what may happen when and if the Soviets withdraw their 100,000 plus troops from this war-ravaged country. There are fears of an Afghan civil war breaking out between the two sides — the PDPA controlled army and the Mujahidin — both of whom are well armed. Secondly, the problems within the PDPA are not over and there seems to be infighting between those who back Najib and others who remain loyal to Babrak Karmal, who himself has been pensioned off and whose close confidants are being gradually eased out of power.

Excerpts from the interview:

MH: [Mushahid Hussain] What is the eventual purpose of your policy of national reconciliation?

Dr N: The main purpose of our policy of national reconciliation is to lead to a government of national unity in Afghanistan. This government will comprise different political elements and there will be a role for anybody who is prepared to join in the process of national reconciliation.

MH: Will this government unity be established through elections?

Dr N: As far as election is concerned, it is not for us alone to decide. We represent only one side and this issue (elections) can only be decided when others come into the process of national reconciliation.

MH: Have you had discussions to include exiled prominent Afghans like Abdur Rahman Pazhwak and Zahir Shah or his representatives in a government of national unity?

Dr N: Our policy towards discussions is clear. Whoever is interested, can negotiate with us. So far there has been no discussion between us and Abdur Rahman Pazhwak and Zahir Shah.

MH: Has your national reconciliation policy resulted in return of refugees from Pakistan or Iran? If so, how many?

Dr N: In spite of obstacles with special measures created on the path of the return of our compatriots by the governments of Pakistan and Iran and the ringleaders of the extremist groups, so far more than 20,000 people could save themselves from their clutches and return home.

MH: You claim that in Afghanistan it is a war of conflicting interests, between reactionary and progressive classes. But you also seem willing to include these "reactionary" classes in your government. Isn't this a contradiction?

Dr N: Roles can change in different situations. Somebody who is reactionary today can be progressive tomorrow and vice versa. We have no problem as long as those on the other side are willing to accept our national reconciliation policy.

MH: What is the future of the Afghan Revolution under PDPA. Isn't its socialist character going to change as a result of your national reconciliation policy?

Dr N: We have never claimed to be socialist. We have never said that socialism is our goal. If you see our Party documents, these clearly speak of a national democratic revolution for Afghanistan. Anyway, each society evolves according to its socio-economic laws and characteristics.

MH: Are you prepared to accept the possibility that the PDPA may eventually not be the majority or ruling party, once a government of National Unity is formed?

Dr. N: We do not want to be the monopoliser of power. We are prepared to share power and responsibiilities in a government of national unity.

MH: Are there differences within the PDPA leadership on the policy of national reconciliation. We have heard that supporters of Babrak Karmal are opposed to your line?

Dr N: Recently, our Party had an enlarged, extended extraordinary plenum which included the Politburo and Central Committee plus others. They met for 2 days, in 5 groups and discussed the whole policy threadbare. There were no differences or opposition, only suggestions on how best to implement this policy. The plenum was unanimous. Such being the case, and this is clearly listed in our Party documents, there is no point in bringing my person into the situation.

MH: What do you have to say on the Peshawar-based 7 Party Alliance's rejection of your National Reconciliation policy?

Dr N: We feel they took a hasty decision and most of them are now repenting. Gulbuddin and Sayaf are the most hardliners. Rabbani is wavering and so are some others. Let me tell you one fact: in their attitude towards our National Reconciliation policy, the Hezb-e Eslami of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar and Jamiat-e-Eslami of Burhanuddin Rabbani are split into 2 groups each. We have not caused this split. For our part, we are prepared to talk directly with each one of them with a view to promoting national reconciliation. We are ready for compromises.

MH: Will your new timetable at Geneva be in months rather than years?

Dr N: We are presenting it at Geneva during the coming round. Let me assure you that you will find us very flexible on this issue. In addition, we will be presenting a mechanism for implementation of all four instruments which are part of a package settlement at Geneva. We are optimistic. We hope this will be the last, final round.

MH: How do you evaluate the U.S. role? Is Washington favouring a settlement now? How do you see the supply of Stingers?

Dr N: I think that the answer is embodied in your question. Handing over the most advanced lethal weapons to the extremists is the manifestation of a political tendency and a certain policy. The Reagan Administration, by making use of various means, strives to hinder the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

MH: Some people are suggesting the induction of an international peace keeping force as part of a political settlement which will maintain peace in Afghanistan by disarming both sides and maintaining peace in the transition towards a government of national unity following elections.

Dr N: Let's stick to the United Nations' package which does not provide for such a force. Once interference from outside ceases and its non-resumption is guaranteed, as is provided in the Geneva package, then our Armed Forces will be capable of handling the situation.

MH: Has the recent improvement in Sino-Soviet ties affected China's attitude towards Afghanistan?

Dr N: China is a great socialist country. We have great respect for the Chinese Revolution. We hope the Chinese will be more amenable to a political settlement in Afghanistan.

MH: Recently, in a speech at Kabul you said that Islam will be the state religion in the new Afghan Constitution. Does it mean that your Party is becoming more realistic?

Dr N: Our Party's position stems from the realistic appraisal of Afghan society. We have always respected Islamic traditions. We have always been close to our people and represent their aspirations.

MH: Are there any differences between USSR and Afghanistan on how to resolve the Afghan problem?

Dr N: No, none whatsoever. There is complete unanimity of views between us. In fact, from ties of friendship our relations have become fraternal.

MH: How do you evaluate the Pakistani and Iranian attitude towards your policy of national reconciliation?

Dr N: While both countries are supporting the insurgency, we see a little advance in the Pakistan position in that they have welcomed national reconciliation. We hope the recent improvement in Pak-Soviet ties will also lead to better relations with Afghanistan too. The Zia regime too should follow national reconciliation in Pakistan. They should share power with the political forces and make Pakistan into a democratic state. It will be good for the people of Pakistan, for its sovereignty and security and well being of the masses. We have a Persian saying: Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones at others.

MH: Will 1987 be the year of decision in Afghanistan?

Dr N: We would not like to give a particular numerical figure to a political settlement. But we are very hopeful that there are now strong possibilities for an early settlement.

'Source' Says Geneva Talks 'Set To Break Down'

AU091617 Paris AFP in English 1553 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Geneva, March 9 (AFP) — Indirect negotiations here between Afghanistan and Pakistan are set to break down in

stalemate, an informed source said Monday, adding that any fresh initiative had to come from Moscow or Washington.

The source said there had been insufficient progress on the key issue — Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan — since the session began on February 25 to warrant keeping the Afghan and Pakistani foreign ministers here any longer.

The United Nations' mediator in the talks, Diego Cordovez, who met with both sides Monday morning, was expected to suggest suspending the talks within the next 48 hours.

Diplomats here said haggling over the timetable for Soviet withdrawal had done nothing to bring the two sides closer together, and that it would probably take arbitration, with reference to East- West relations and the global situation, to break the deadlock.

The Afghans have shortened their proposed period for a Soviet troop withdrawal from four years to 22 months, but the Pakistanis want the Soviet troops out within four to six months.

Mr Cordovez said one of the sides — he declined to say which — put new proposals on the table last Thursday, but they had failed to make an impact.

Statements over the weekend by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz have led observers to believe that dissatisfaction with the Geneva talks stems largely from Washington and Islamabad.

Mr Reagan said a solution to the Afghan problem was one of the pre-conditions for an improvement in relations between the White House and the Kremlin.

Mr Shultz said tension between the superpowers would persist as long as Moscow interfered in Afghan affairs.

Diplomats here said the Reagan administration was hoping to make Moscow pay a heavy price for ridding itself of the Afghan problem, particularly in the light of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of "openness".

On Friday sources close to Mr Cordovez, who is now in his sixth year as go-between in the talks, said he thought there was still a fair amount of "contempt and suspicion" between the two sides.

Cordovez Cited on Withdrawal Differences

AU101055 Paris AFP in English 1048 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Geneva, March 10 (AFP) — Differences between Kabul and Islamabad over the length of a total withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan now amount to less than a year, United Nations' mediator Diego Cordovez said here Tuesday.

Mr Cordovez, who was announcing the adjournment of proximity talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan, said no new date had been fixed to resume negotiations but he had suggested it should be within no more than two months.

He said that last May the two sides differed by as much as 45 months over the period in which Soviet troops should leave Afghanistan, but by August this had dropped to 32-33 months. [passage omitted]

AFP Views 'Guerilla' Interim Government 'Options'

NC091855 Paris AFP in English 1832 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Islamabad, March 9 (AFP) — The Afghan guerrilla movement downed 103 Afghan-Soviet planes and helicopters during January and February, the pro-guerrilla Afghan Islamic news agency reported here Monday, quoting "reliable sources" in Kabul.

The agency also reported that a four-engined military transport was shot down by a guerrilla missile last Wednesday near the Afghan-Soviet base at Bagram, west of Kabul. The aircraft was carrying 15 Afghan and Soviet military personnel, the agency said. It said that 77 planes and helicopters were shot down in January and 26 in February throughout Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, a number of guerrilla spokesmen here announced that only members of the seven parties forming the Peshawar-based Afghan Guerrilla Alliance "will be able to take part in the future interim government" to be announced shortly after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. The seven alliance leaders took the decision after a meeting earlier Monday in Peshawar, spokesmen said.

A spokesman of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami Party, one of the alliance's main and most radical parties, said this meant that ex-King Zahir Shah, who was overthrown in July 1973 and took refuge in Rome, will have "no role" in the interim government, as he is not a member of any of the seven parties. But an official of the royalist Islamic Front of Ahmad Gaylani said that no name, especially not that of the ex-king, had been mentioned in the resolution agreed on by the alliance leaders.

The resolution says that "any government which is going to be announced in Afghanistan without the approval and the charter of the appointed commission for the interim government of the alliance will not be acceptable and the mujahidin will continue their armed struggle against such a government."

The resolution, observers said, should be seen in the light of proposals for political compromise made by the Afghans and the Russians, who have contacted emigre Afghans, including ex-King Zahir Shah, in Europe and the United States, with proposals for a "coalition government."

The guerrillas reject any idea of collaboration with the pro-Soviet Kabul government. But according to sources in the guerrilla parties, the guerrillas are considering "three options":

1) - A coalition government, which all parties reject.

2) - An interim government made up of all mujahidin parties, an option that all the parties managed to agree on last January.

3) - A "third force" government that "the nation would have to accept," an option considered "possible" by some parties but rejected by others.

In circles in Pakistan close to the guerrillas much has been said recently about the possibilities of a "third force" by means of the indirect negotiations of Afghanistan between Kabul and Islamabad that have been going on in Geneva since last February 25 under UN auspices.

The Hezb-e Eslami spokesman said that Monday's resolution also straightened the record after certain "badly-interpreted" interviews given by Mr Gaylani and other guerrilla chiefs.

The guerrilla parties have always been divided on what role ex-King Zahir Shah might play in an Afghan settlement, observers recalled.

4,000 Prisoners Released Under General Amnesty

LD100754 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Kabul, March 9, BAKHTAR — The Commission of National Reconciliation of Kabul City held its third session and assessed the report of the Presidium of the commission today.

The report says that the party and state of the DRA honour their obligations in connection with the maintaining of national accord in the country.

So far, 4,000 prisoners have been released on the basis of the general amnesty decree of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA.

The [word indistinct] aids of the state to the deserving people have been increased.

More than 100 of the heads of the opposed armed groups have signed protocols about their military service in the Armed Forces of the DRA, the report points out.

The number of people laying down their weapons and joining the process (?of) national reconciliation for ensuring peace in Afghanistan is increasing day by day.

In spite of the obstacles created against the return of the Afghans by the Governments of Iran and Pakistan more and more people are coming back to their homeland and all kinds of facilities are put at their disposal, the report went on to say.

Mujahidin Repulse Soviet-Kabul Attack in Qandahar

BK100813 Karachi Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have repulsed a recent attack of the Soviet-Kabul forces in Qandahar Province. More than 100 Soviet-Kabul troops were reportedly killed and various vehicles destroyed. In another operation in Herat Province during last week, the mujahidin killed 54 Soviet-Kabul troops and destroyed three tanks.

Protest Lodged Over Presence of Indian Ship

BK100129 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Bangladesh has lodged a strong protest against the presence of an Indian vessel in its internal waters and demanded its immediate withdrawal. The Indian high commissioner in Bangladesh was summoned to the Foreign Office in Dhaka last night and a protest note was handed over to him.

An Indian vessel by the name of *(Bhaskaragamma)* was sighted yesterday in the internal waters of Bangladesh at the estuary of river Raimangal with men in uniform on board.

'General Strike' Called; No Early Violence Noted

BK100545 Hong Kong AFP in English 0539 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Dhaka, March 10 (AFP) — Police said here Tuesday that an opposition student leader killed in a explosion here may have been preparing a bomb to be used in a half-day general strike which began peacefully in the capital Tuesday.

Opposition student leader, Mahbubul Huq Bablu, 27, was killed and at least seven others injured, some of the seriously, when a powerful bomb exploded in a student hostel at Dhaka University Monday, hospital sources and witnesses said. All the students were members of the Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal, the student wing of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Begum Khaleda Zia, which called the general strike Tuesday to protest higher bus fares. Begum Zia was quoted by hospital sources as saying that the explosion occurred after a bomb was lobbed into the room where the students were dining.

Dhaka was virtually without traffic and most shops and offices were closed here Tuesday morning, witnesses said. Police said there were no immediate reports of violence as the 8-hour general strike began at dawn.

Small groups of people were seen marching through the streets, shouting slogans in support of the strike, witnesses said. Police jeeps and ambulances were also seen speeding around the capital, they added.

Strike Turns Violent; Bombs Explode

BK100647 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] In Bangladesh, a strike to protest against the hike in bus fares today turned into a violent antigovernment campaign. This follows the death of a student leader in a bomb explosion inside the Dhaka University last evening. A number of bombs exploded across the country today damaging public property in Chittagong and Rajshahi. The strike call was given by the opposition students backed by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP]. The BNP leader, Begum Khalida Zia, described the student leader's death yesterday as a new conspiracy by the government to manipulate its political opponent.

Bomb Death Reported During Strike

BK101050 Hong Kong AFP in English 1030 GMT 10 Mar 87

[By Golam Tahaboor]

[Text] Dhaka, March 10 (AFP) — A teenager was killed in a home-made bomb explosion here Tuesday as a half-day strike called by the opposition to protest bus fare hikes virtually paralyzed the Bangladesh capital, witnesses said. Angry students meanwhile marched through the campus of Dhaka University shouting anti-government slogans to protest the death of a student leader killed in a bomb explosion late Monday in a university dormitory. The students vowed to take revenge for the death Monday of Mahbubul Huq Bablu, the 27-year-old leader of the student wing of the oppositon Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Begum Khaleda Zia. [passage omitted]

The main sponsor of Tuesday's strike was the influential student wing of the BNP led by Mr Bablu. Other opposition parties also backed the shut-down. The strike left the rain-soaked roads and streets of Dhaka virtually traffic-free and shops and offices shuttered. No public or private transportation was available except for a few tricycle rickshaws. Witnesses said the only casualty during the strike here Tuesday was a 17-year-old boy killed in an explosion in south Dhaka.

During their rampage at Dhaka University, students broke into several campus rooms belonging to the Jatiya Chatra Samaj, the student wing of the ruling Jatiya Party of President Hussain Mohammmed Ershad, witnesses said. They ransacked the rooms of the mostly deserted dormitories and set fire to the belongings of the residents, they added.

Police sources said they suspected that the blast was caused by the accidental explosion of bombs being made in the room for use during Tuesday's strike. Press reports said that after the blast, angry students barred police and press potographers from entering the dormitory. Police were only allowed to enter the building several hours after the explosion, the reports said.

Begum Khaleda Zia, the BNP leader, held an emergency party meeting after the explosion and issued a statement blaming the "armed thugs of the ruling Jatiya Party," She said her party would stage one week of demonstrations to protest the killings, which she called a government "conspiracy to annihilate its political adversaries." In a statement, the BNP student wing accused ruling party activists of "hurling powerful bombs" into the hostel room in a move to kill Mr Bablu.

Deputy Premier Abdul Matin informed Parliament of the blast late Monday and promised to make a detailed statement on the incident later Tuesday.

Reports from the port city of Chittagong said that the strike there had been complete and peaceful and that sponsors of the strike had extended the shut-down until dusk. The only violence in Chittagong was reported late Monday when students set fire to a state-owned bus.

Nationwide school certificate examinations which were scheduled for Tuesday were postponed by the authorities apparently because of the strike. The Bangladesh Parliament however met as scheduled Tuesday despite an oppositon boycott. Press reports said the authorities had shipped in beds for the 330 members of Parliament so they could sleep in Parliament overnight.

There were also reports that students in several cities around the country, including Jessore, Noakhali, Rajshahi, and Tangail, took to the streets late Monday night after hearing of the death of the BNP student leader. The students attacked local offices of the ruling Jatiya Party and government property, the reports said.

Foreign Minister, French Official Continue Talks
BK091629 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] France will give Bangladesh 14,000 tons of foodgrains as grant during the current financial year. The French offer came during the official level talks between the two countries in Dhaka today. Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury led the Bangladesh delegation, while the French delegation was headed by visiting Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Didier Bariani.

Official sources said the two sides discussed bilateral and international issues of common concern. Bilateral issues included economic, scientific, and cultural cooperation, while the international issues were the situation in Afghanistan, the Gulf conflict, OIC, and the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation].

The French minister lauded the efforts of the government for the development of the country. He also complimented Bangladesh for its pioneering role in the formation of the SAARC.

The Bangladesh foreign minister expressed the hope the visit will contribute to further consolidate (?the already) existing ties between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh and France have signed a convention for avoidance of double taxation. Finance Minister M. Syeduzzaman and French Minister Didier Bariani [words indistinct]. After the signing ceremony Mr Syeduzzaman said the convention will provide opportunities for expanding the economic cooperation between the two countries especially in the private sector.

Mr Bariani said convention would boost the existing bilateral economic ties and provide [words indistinct].

The two countries will sign a cultural exchange agreement.

Security Policy Urged Due to Pakistan Nuclear Status

BK080600 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 7 Mar 87

["Spotlight: Pakistan's Nuclear Program" by K. Subrahmaniam, director of the Institute for Defense Study and Analysis]

[Text] The disclosure of Pakistan having developed a nuclear weapon by Dr A.Q. Khan, the head of the uranium enrichment facility at Kahuta, in his interview to Mr Kuldip Nayyar on 28 January 1987 comes as no surprise to those who have been watching Pakistan's progress in this field over the years. In spite of Dr Khan's successive but different versions of denial about the contents of the interview, Mr Nayyar's version stands corroborated by Mr Mushahid Hussain, editor of Pakistan's English daily, *Muslim*. Dr Khan's disclosure on Pakistani possession of a nuclear weapon is not an abrupt one.

Some months back the eminent U.S. journalist Bob Woodward, basing himself on information obtained from U.S. intelligence sources, wrote in *The Washington Post* that Pakistan was only two screwdriver turns away from the bomb. Before that came news about Pakistan having crossed the U.S. indicated limit of uranium enrichment level, Pakistan's testing of triggering mechanism for a bomb consisting of an imploding device of conventional explosive means, Pakistan's purchase of flash X-ray machines, clandestine attempts by Pakistanis with links with Pakistani atomic energy commission to smuggle krypton switches out of United States, and U.S. intelligence reports about Chinese assistance in designing the weapons etc.... To be fair to Pakistan it never made any secret of its quest for nuclear weapons capability.

They withstood the rigors of United States cutting off all aid to them in April 1979 following the discovery that they were engaged in uranium enrichment through sensitive methods ostensibly intended for weapon purposes since Pakistan had no peaceful use for it. They successfully bargained with the United States that in exchange for allowing Pakistani soil being used as a sanctuary by Afghan insurgents fighting against Soviet-supported Kabul regime and Pakistan serving as a conduit of arms to them, the latter should give them a waiver from their nuclear nonproliferation legislation known as Symington Amendment.

The United States by giving a 6-year waiver clearly abdicated its legal obligation generated by its own domestic legislation. Pakistan presumably decided to follow the example of Israel which has been having a well developed nuclear arsenal for perhaps 15 years and has been able to adopt an ambiguous policy in regard to its existence. On the one hand there were hints from most authoritative quarters that Israel has a nuclear weapons arsenal and on the other, very vehement denial to have none. Israel had proposed a nuclear weapons free zone in West Asia and at the same time has adopted a declaratory policy that they will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons in the area nor will they be the second. They have now put on trial a former nuclear technician by name Mordekhay Vanunu for disclosing details of their nuclear arsenal to the British paper *The Sunday Times*. And at the same time they maintain they are not a nuclear-weapon nation.

The United States will not dream of invoking any penalty against Israel for having gone nuclear. Further, over the years Israel has been using its possession of unacknowledged nuclear arsenal to pressure the United States to supply them the most sophisticated conventional weapons. The underlying threat is if the U.S. refuses, the Israelis will declare themselves a nuclear-weapon power publicly, thereby upsetting the nonproliferation regime carefully put together over the years by the United States with support from the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and 127 other countries. The strategy of nuclear ambiguity has worked extraordinarily well for Israel and there is no reason why it should not work equally well for Pakistan.

The nuclear strategy is a highly arcane and esoteric one. Consequently, without understanding the background, many gullible people in this country are taken in by Pakistan's offer of nuclear-weapons free zone in South Asia and mutual inspection and such other beguiling proposals.

These people did not understand that, while such proposals have some relevance to stop acknowledged nuclear proliferation, they were of no effect in the case of nuclear ambiguous strategy — the heart of which is to blindly deny possession of nuclear weapons even while generating signals all the time to let other nations know that the country has them. There is presently much greater understanding of the use of nuclear weapons and most of the textbook knowledge of nuclear doctrines, based on theoretical strategic rationalization of the U.S. policy of the fifties and sixties, are today totally out of date. Today nuclear weapons are not regarded as instruments of war to be used in the battlefield or even against an adversary's assets and population. They are considered as instruments of terror, more useful in coercing an adversary through threat of use than by actual use.

One Pakistani strategic theoretician has cited that in Koran the angel promised (?Allah) that Lord will inspire the believers and strike terror into the hearts of the unbelievers and rationalized nothing strikes terror into the hearts of unbelievers, presumably most of us, than a nuclear weapon. This concept of striking terror in the heart of an adversary and dissuading him from embarking upon an action detrimental to one's interest is a core of the doctrine of deterrence.

Here again one has to clear oneself of generally prevalent confusion in regard to India's attitude toward nuclear deterrence and its implications for our security policy in future. When one considers our national security in the current international strategic environment what is more relevant is not what our attitude towards nuclear deterrent is, but what is the attitude of our neighbors and other major powers towards that concept. In endeavoring to ensure our security we have to operate on the belief systems and values of other nations which are in a position to pose threats to our security. Therefore, the fact that we do not subscribe to the doctrine of nuclear deterrence and we are pledged to bring about a world without nuclear weapons and we are doing our best to promote nuclear disarmament are not mutually exclusive propositions on the imperative need we face

to ensure that this country does not face a threat of use of nuclear weapons against it.

In Dr A.Q. Khan's interview there was an implied threat though cast in defensive terms. He is reported to have said, I quote, let it be clear that we shall use the bomb if our existence is threatened, unquote. In the last 42 years of nuclear era, nuclear threats conveyed in situations of asymetry have generally worked. This happened in Korea in 1953, [word indistinct] crisis in 1958, in Cuba in 1962, and by Israel against its Arab neighbors.

Superiority in conventional forces does not compensate for nuclear assym try. This is the considered military view among developed nations and from Dr A.Q. Khan's threat one should consider this also appears to be the Pakistani view. There is now no way to deprive Pakistan of its nuclear capability.

The current view of U.S. Administration has been spelled out by Mr Richard Perle, the U.S. assistant secretary of defense, who has given it before the U.S. Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs. He first distinguished in South Asia between a friend and ally of the United States, namely Pakistan, and the other which is not, namely India. He argued that cutting off military aid to Pakistan would only deepen its sense of insecurity and drive Pakistan faster to acquire nuclear weapons capabilty. Obviously, this line of argument will justify the United States continuing its nuclear supplies to Pakistan without putting pressure on Pakistan to curb its quest for nuclear weapon capability.

In such circumstances India will have to reconcile itself to Pakistan's nuclear capability and continuing flow of U.S. weapons to that country. There is very little to be gained in bewailing the U.S. arms aid policy toward Pakistan and their acquiescence in Pakistani nuclear quest nor is there any sense in moralizing about Pakistani nuclear quest. The need of the hour is to formulate a feasible policy which will safeguard Indian security taking into account Pakistan's and China's nuclear status and the interest of the two superpowers in South Asian region.

Our policy of working for nuclear disarmament need not come in the way of any pragmatic nuclear security policy. Today only the nuclear weapon nations are in a position to take the initiative in regard to nuclear disarmament. India has some credibility in this respect mainly because of the capability it displayed in May 1974.

Technology and rerourcewise, India is in a position to formulate a security policy which will reassure our people that the newest nuclear security challenge can be faced by this country. At the same time in the present international strategic environment there are advantages in pursuing a policy of ambiguity on the lines of Israel and Pakistan instead of acknowledging a publicly announced policy of nuclear deterrence. In such a framework certain deliberate obfuscation of policy is a necessity even while trying to add to the uncertainties of our potential adversaries.

The increasing credibility in Pakistani nuclear capability is likely to add to the popularity of the military establishment in that country. So will the continued U.S. military aid and the economic support in the light of Pakistan progressively revealing its nuclear contours. The Pakistani paper, *Muslim*, called it the Islamic bomb a few days ago. It is also quite likely that Pakistan will be able to persuade oil exporting and affluent Islamic countries to step up their economic assistance. Pakistan's influence in the Islamic world, especially in terms of military training assistance, may be expected to increase.

Pakistan may also not be in a hurry to settle the Afghan issue. So long as Afghan insurgency continues it can expect the United States to tolerate its nuclear arsenal and to continue with its arms transfers. Once this has taken place for a sufficiently long period the situation will become irreversible. The resulting situation will be totally different from what we have been used to in the subcontinent in the last 4 decades and hence calls for new political and strategic thinking.

While situation of asymmetry between two adversarial nations increases to vulnerability of the nonnuclear nation, history demonstrates that situation of nuclear symmetry has led to stability and search for confidence-building measures. This happened in Central Europe, in China and the Soviet Union, and China and the United States. Therefore, a correct and creative policy by India can lead to the same kind of stability and confidence building in the subcontinent.

Government Involvement in AWACS Protest Denied

BK101416 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, has said that India is in no way involved in the Indian community's campaign to stop the sale of AWACS planes to Pakistan by the United States. Talking to a group of Indian community leaders at New York last weekend, Mr Tiwari said New Delhi is, however, appreciative of the efforts of the community in the U.S. for mobilizing an opinion for a worthy cause.

It may be recalled that 1,500 members of the Indian community staged a rally in Washington to pledge their initiatives to stop the sale of the spy planes to Pakistan. The rally had been organized by an anti-AWACS committee headed by Mr (Kamal Dhandhana).

French Foreign Minister Reviews Delhi Visit

PM100842 Paris LE MONDE in French 8-9 Mar 87 p 3

[Patrice Claude dispatch: "French Government Tries To Reassure India on Continuation of Bilateral Relations"]

[Text] New Delhi — None of the serious disagreements between France and India on several major international questions like the Cambodian crisis or Paris' nuclear policy in the South Pacific was deemed important enough by [French Foreign Minister] Jean-Bernard Raimond or his interlocutors to cast any shadow over the bilateral relations which both sides want to safeguard. Indeed, it was as if efforts were being made to avoid these subjects.

Assessing his 2-day visit during a press conference on Friday, Mr Raimond said that he had achieved his goal of demonstrating "the continuity of French policy toward India," by making it the first leg of his first Asian tour. Answering worries expressed in the Indian press about a possible change in French attitude after the good relations established under the socialist government, Mr Raimond said that his presence in the Indian capital demonstrated that this was not true. As proof of this, he announced that France will pledge Fr20 million to the Africa Fund — an organization which India has just created with several dozen countries, mainly nonaligned countries, aimed at helping the "Front-Line" African countries to break South Africa's economic hold.

In his talks with Rajiv Gandhi and his other Indian interlocutors, Mr Raimond reviewed several contracts now under negotiation, like India's possible purchase of around 100 Alpha-jet planes from Dassault, the second phase of a contract on the installation of Alcatel telephone exchanges, and a dam project in Kashmir. Mr Raimond said he put forward "interesting" proposals and found his hosts "attentive" to the French offers.

However, in private the Indian officials did not conceal their deep concern over their trade deficit with France, which they may have emphasized more than usual — a deficit of Fr4.5 billion in 1986 with a volume of trade totaling Fr8.5 billion in the two directions. This is a deficit which does not favor the contracts which Mr Raimond hoped to push during his visit.

Natwar Singh on Indian Residents in Hong Kong

BK100900 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] The government has made it clear to Britain that persons of Indian origin in Hong Kong, who hold British dependent territory citizenship passports, are the responsibility of that country. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, said in the Rajya Sabha today that the British government should ensure that these persons are not rendered stateless after China resumes sovereignty over Hong Kong from 1 July 1997.

There are about 4,500 persons of Indian origin in Hong Kong who hold British dependent territory citizenship passports. Britain has, however, said that these persons will not have any right of abode in that country.

The minister said the government is in constant touch with the British government on the matter.

Geneva Talks Delegation Presents 'New Proposals'

BK091728 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] At the indirect Geneva proximity talks on Afghanistan today, Pakistan presented new proposals regarding an acceptable time frame for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. *Associated Press of Pakistan*, quoting sources close to Pakistani delegation, said the new proposals have not brought any change in Pakistan's earlier stand that the duration of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan should be fixed in months and not in years. The news agency has learned that a wide gap exists between the positions of the interlocutors on this important issue.

Earlier, Pakistan reportedly rejected the Kabul regime's proposals presented on Thursday. The talks are to resume tomorrow when the Kabul regime is expected to give its reaction to the new initiative by pakistan to break the deadlock in the talks.

Cooperation Meeting With DPRK Begins 8 Mar

BK081653 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] The third meeting of the Pakistan-DPRK Joint Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation began in Islamabad today. Federal Finance Minister Mohammad Yasin Khan Watto told the inaugural session that several major projects established in various fields with DPRK assistance have begun operations. He stressed the need for expanding cooperation in technical, scientific, trade, and other fields.

Choe Chong-Kun, DPRK delegation leader and minister for foreign trade, gave assurances that all possible efforts to boost cooperation with Pakistan in various fields would be exerted. During his meeting with the federal finance minister, the DPRK minister expressed confidence that the current Pakistan-DPRK joint committee meeting will make concrete decisions to promote bilateral cooperation. Pakistan's finance minister expressed the hope that the two sides will identify areas for promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation.

Visiting Delegation Attends Banquet

BK100225 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] The Democratic People's Republic of Korea wants to increase trade with Pakistan. This was stated by the visiting DPRK Minister for Foreign Trade Mr Choe Chong-kun, while speaking at a banquet in Islamabad last night hosted by the Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Qazi Abdul Majid Abid. He described his talks with Pakistani officials as very fruitful.

Earlier, The Pakistani information minister made reference to Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo's 5-point socioeconomic program. He said Pakistan wants to benefit from the experiences of the DPRK and will continue to promote bilateral cooperation for mutual benefit. He also noted that Pakistan and the DPRK have similar views on major international issues.

Delegation Head Meets Ziaul Haq

BK091616 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] This afternoon DPRK Minister for Foreign Trade Choe Chong-kun called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi and discussed matters relating to bilateral relations with him. The president evinced keen interest in the proceedings of the Pakistan-DPRK joint economic committee session now underway in Islamabad.

The DPRK delegation also met with Haji Mohammad Hanif Taiyub, federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, and discussed matters relating to bilateral cooperation in the exploration of mineral resources. The two sides noted cooperation possibilities in various fields, including mineral exploration. The Pakistani minister said the government attaches maximum importance to making the country self-sufficient in mineral wealth, and that progress has been made in this field.

DPRK delegation leader Choe Chong-kun said the results of the geological survey conducted by DPRK experts to locate zinc in Baluchistan are encouraging.

Afghan Refugee Influx Continues in NWFP

BK091200 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] The influx of Afghan refugees to Pakistan continues at an average rate of about 8,000 every month. The North West Frontier Province [NWFP] commissioner for Afghan refugees told a news conference in Peshawar this afternoon that there are over 3 million registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Over 2.5 million of these are in the NWFP and the adjoining tribal areas.

SRI LANKA

AFP: Troops Kill 50 'Separatists' in Attack on LTTE

BK091242 Hong Kong AFP in English 1240 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Colombo, March 9 (AFP) — Government troops have killed fifty Tamil separatists and wounded many others in an attack on a rebel hideout in the jungles of northern Sri Lanka, reliable sources said here Monday.

The sources quoted high ranking security officials as saying that the troops late Sunday had attacked and destroyed the jungle hideout, in the Jaffna peninsula, of a force of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas.

The sources said that the troops had killed fifty separatists and seriously wounded many others in the attack, which was launched from the Navatkuly army camp in Jaffna. The troops destroyed several separatist bunkers in mopping-up operations.

The Media Centre said here Monday that separatists had attacked Sunday an army camp at Valvedditturai in the north.

Sources said that troops in the camp had launched a counter-attack and destroyed several rebel bunkers.

The Tamil daily *Virakesari* reported Monday that some 20 civilians were killed and several injured during weekend attacks by security forces against rebel positions in Jaffna.

Meanwhile National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali alleged, during a speech made Saturday in Ratnapura, southeast of here, that overseas countries were supplying arms to the separatists. Observers here believed that Mr Athulathmudali was making an indirect reference to India. Officials here believe that the Tamil Nadu government, in southern India, has returned confiscated weapons to LTTE separatists based in Madras.

Mr Athulathmudali urged such countries to "please refrain from supplying arms to the separatists."

Tamil separatists are campaigning for a separate homeland in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

India's Gandhi Urged To End Killing of Tamils

BK100305 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister has appealed to the prime minister to take immediate steps to stop the killings of Tamils in Jaffna and Vavuniya areas by Sri Lankan security forces. In a telegram to Mr Rajiv Gandhi, Mr M.G. Ramachandran said the military offensive in these areas in the last 2 days has shocked the people in Tamil Nadu.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Hameed, has suddenly left for London following Argentina moving a resolution at the United Nations commission for human rights on alleged violation of human rights in the island. The Argentine resolution calls for sending observers from the International Red Cross and the United Nations.

Mohtashemi Briefs Khamene'i on Syria Visit

LD101117 Tehran IRNA in English 1111 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, who concluded a three-day visit to Syria Sunday where he delivered a message from the Iranian president to his Syrian counterpart, met with President 'Ali Khamene'i here Monday afternoon.

Mohtashemi conveyed a cordial message from President al-Asad to President Khamene'i and informed him of the positive results of his talks with the Syrian leader on the strengthening of anti-Zionist combatant forces and on freedom of action of Hizballah forces in Lebanon.

The interior minister also spoke on the viewpoints of the Syrian president on Syria's support for forces sincerely fighting against the Zionist regime. Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i was also told of President al-Asad's interest in further expanding bilateral relations between the two Muslim countries.

President Khamene'i expressed satisfaction over the Damascus talks and stressed continuation of the fight by the Lebanese Hizballah forces against Zionism.

Addresses Correspondent on Visit

NC091019 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Interior Minister Mohtashemi, who visited Syria at the head of a high-level political delegation, returned to Tehran last night. During his 3-day visit to Damascus the interior minister met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and other prominent officials and discussed recent events in Beirut. In an interview with our correspondent, Mr Mohtashemi spoke about the outcome of his visit to Syria.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Mohtashemi, your excellency visited Damascus for 3 days at the head of a delegation, following recent events in Beirut and the arrival of Syrian troops in that city. Could you please tell us about the objectives of this visit and the results?

[Mohtashemi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In view of the deep and sincere relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic and the close ties between the leaders of the two countries and the Muslim Iranian and Syrian nations, this visit was aimed at consolidating these relations and reaffirming the struggle against oppression and Zionism, to which both countries are committed. In addition, there was an imperative need to discuss the problem of the Hezbollah and their fundamental, principled movement to eradicate the usurpist Zionists, the usurpist Americans, and the French. Hezbollah plays a sensitive and effective role in this struggle, and solidarity and unity among all forces working to remove the cancerous tumor of Israel from occupied Palestine and holy Jerusalem is essential.

An initial task was to convey President Khamene'i's message about the latest events in Beirut, a source of apprehension for our officials, to Hafiz al-Asad. We also wished to clarify inconsistent reports on the incident [in which 23 Hezbollah members were killed by Syrian forces] and the Syrian brothers' views. We wanted to affirm that those forces wishing to fight Israel are able to do so freely and on their own initiative, especially Hezbollah members, the most sincere force in Lebanon fighting Israel and the United States. These forces must be allowed to have arms, which should be used only against Israel and the United States and for the defense and support of the lives, property, and honor of the Lebanese and of themselves in southern Lebanon. Hezbollah should be allowed to follow its own path with full support and confidence.

As we expected, the Syrian leaders' stance is based on principles they have outlined in the past: that anti-Zionist struggles should continue, that forces wishing to fight Israel have freedom of movement and initiative, that arms remain in the hands of the Hezbollah and all forces wishing to fight the usurpist Israeli forces, and that Hezbollah members in Al-Biqa', (Zahiya), and southern Lebanon be allowed freedom to continue their struggles, arms in hand. The idea that the West Beirut incident was planned was not even contemplated, but in any case the Syrian brothers have reassured the Islamic Republic of Iran that however the forces in Lebanon wish to carry out their fight against Israel, Syria will support them, and in this regard Hezbollah has the continuing support and backing of Syria in its struggle against Israel.

[Correspondent] As you know, the oppressors wish to drive a wedge between the Islamic Republic of Iran, Syria, and Libya and to inflict a blow to the struggle of the Lebanese Muslims. What effect did this visit have on support for and strengthening of the Lebanese Muslims' struggle?

[Mohtashemi] We also discussed aggression, consolidation, and broadening of ties among Iran, Syria, and Libya. And at our political and military sessions we expressed hope that in the near future a tripartite session will again be held and will continue. This unity and solidarity among the progressive and anti-oppressive forces represents a thorn in the side of our enemies, and it should remain thus. In this regard we and the Syrian Government stress the importance of the anti-Zionist movement in Lebanon and elsewhere. We and the Syrian leaders also agreed that these anti-Israeli, anti-Zionist movements should continue in southern Lebanon, and we support it. This visit proved very effective in working toward these objectives, and the Syrian position in this regard is very important to us. We succeeded in ascertaining their views in this regard.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

IRGC Minister Receives Visiting SWAPO Official

LD092138 Tehran IRNA in English 1837 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran will emerge victorious in the Iraqi-imposed war because all aggressors are doomed to defeat, said visiting member of the Central Committee of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) Philemon Malima, here Monday.

Malima, making the remark in a meeting with Minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rafiqdust, also lauded Iran for supporting the just struggle of the Namibian people against the racist regime in Pretoria.

Among other topics discussed at the meeting was expansion of relations between SWAPO and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In response, the IRGC minister, pledging Iran's support for the just struggle of the Namibian people against the apartheid regime, described the probable victory of the Namibian people as "the defeat" of tyranny in southern Africa.

Mo'ayeri Talks With Official

LD092158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Excerpt] This afternoon Mr Malima, adviser and member of the SWAPO Central Committee, met with the prime minister's Political Deputy Mr Mo'ayeri. In the course of this meeting, Mr Malima referred to the struggle against the South African regime and said: The Pretoria regime is facing a grave political crisis and we hope that through the assistance of our Muslim brothers, the racist regime of South Africa will be put under greater pressure so that we can gain independence for Namibia. He added: The racist regime of South Africa, by creating countless problems and by launching repeated aggression against such countries as Zimbabwe, Angola, and Mozambique, and by supporting the opponents of these countries' governments, is trying to weaken their support for the struggle of SWAPO. However, we give this assurance that the nation of Namibia will support SWAPO.

Afterward, Mr Mo'ayeri, while paying tribute to SWAPO, described gains of the Islamic Revolution and the events leading to the revolution victory and said: The Iraqi aggressive regime has repeatedly violated international conventions by attacking civilian areas, particularly schools. [passage omitted]

IRNA Cites Aqazadeh's Algeria, Gabon Visits

LD091417 Tehran IRNA in English 1355 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Algiers, March 9, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran will seriously counter any attempt to reduce oil prices, said Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh at the end of his three-day visit to Algeria, here Sunday night.

The oil minister told IRNA that he had held talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi, Minister of Energy and Petrochemical Industries Belkacem Nabi, and Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi on Tehran-Algiers relations, oil issues, and plots hatched by the Western countries against OPEC.

Ways of Iran-Algeria cooperation in stabilizing oil prices and in improving oil markets were other topics discussed with Algerian officials, he said.

The Iranian oil minister reiterated that both Iran and Algeria hold coordinated viewpoints on the afore-said topics.

On his meeting with President Chadli Bendjedid, Aqazadeh said that issues of mutual interest, Tehran-Algiers relations, and ways to confront pressure exerted by multi-national companies and Western countries on OPEC were discussed at the meeting.

He said, with regards to Iran's strategic relations with Algeria within the framework of OPEC, his talks with Algerian officials were "very positive."

Commenting on OPEC's readiness to confront conspiracies of the Western countries, Aqazadeh said that OPEC is determined to counter any plot to reduce oil prices.

"The Islamic Republic has led and will lead the move aimed at stabilizing the oil prices. If our production ceiling is cut even by one third we will not give even a cent discount in our oil prices," stressed Aqazadeh.

On his visit to Gabon, Aqazadeh said that both Iran and Gabon hold similar viewpoints on measures that should be taken to stabilize the prices of petroleum.

On the commitment of OPEC member countries to decisions taken in the organization's (?ministerial) meeting in December 1986, Aqazadeh noted that most members had observed their OPEC-assigned quotas. He said that even production of some members had been less than their assigned quotas.

"Iran, Saudi Arabia, and other OPEC members are determined to stabilize the oil prices in the international market," Aqazadeh said.

Questioned about what measures should be taken by OPEC to push up the prices, Aqazadeh said that the solidarity of OPEC member states, along with positive measures to be taken by the organization, would help stabilize prices in the global markets. He added that such stability (?can boost) prices.

Iraqi Kurdish Hezbollah Condemn Turkish Strike

LD092132 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] The Kurdish Hezbollah of Iraq, by issuing a statement, strongly condemned the air strike mounted by Turkey in the liberated regions of northern Iraq. In the part of this statement it has been asserted that soliciting Turkish help and supressing Kurdistan's revolutionaries indicate the inability of the regime ruling over Iraq, and this Turkish act (?prolongs) the existence of Saddam's collapsing regime.

The Kurdish Hezbollah of Iraq, in its statement, rejecting the Turkish contention with regard to the existence of opposition troops of Turkey in the Iraqi territory, strongly condemned the repeated attacks launched by the Turkish forces on the northern Iraq and the clampdown of the people of this region. [sentence as heard]

At the conclusion of this statement, while stressing continuation of fight until the downfall of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, called upon the international organizations and the freedom-loving governments and Muslims of the world not to remain impassive and reticent in the face of aggressions and the acts perpetrated contrary to the international conventions by the Iraqi regime and take steps towards condemning this regime.

Tehran Commentary on 'Bombardment'

NC101012 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Unattributed commentary: "Turkey's Internal Problems and the Attack on Iraq"]

[Text] In a statement to IRNA about the bombardment of a number of villages in northern Iraq by Turkey, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman has said that the Islamic Republic of Iran was following the developments very carefully. The Turkish military forces, which have launched a three-pronged attack on Iraq, are reported to have advanced 6 km into northern Iraq. According to reports in Turkish newspapers, warplanes and helicopters are simultaneously continuing their flights in the region with operations of the Turkish Army's 119th Gendarmerie Regiment. Meanwhile, military equipment is continuously being transferred to the Uludere region.

The nature of such provocations is not unfamiliar to the world or to peoples of the region — particularly to the Muslim people of Iraq and Iran. As noted by the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Turkey's problems cannot be used as a pretext to penetrate a neighboring country and attack defenseless people who have no links to incidents in Turkey and who are struggling against the Iraqi regime. It is a fact that a logical and [word indistinct] link cannot be established between Turkey's internal problems and the struggling Kurds in Iraq. It is also a fact that excessive importance is being attached to the border between Turkey and Iraq. Naturally, this is directly linked to the situation of the regime oppressing the Iraqi people.

There is not a single person in the world who is unaware of the Iraqi regime's criminal nature. This is why there is greater understanding of the Islamic Republic of Iran's view that the Zionist Iraqi regime should be removed to establish lasting peace in the region. Taking Iraq's criminal and fascist nature and its pursuit of an expansionist policy into consideration, how can a link be established between the Muslim people in northern Iraq, who are waging a struggle against that regime, and the internal problems of Turkey? This is only one of the logical questions that come to mind. Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran, closely following the developments in northern Iraq, hopes that Turkey will establish and maintain a sensible distance from the Iraqi regime.

Continuing his statement, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said: Iran's stand on the question of safeguarding Iraq's territorial integrity has been brought to the attention of Turkish officials several times. The Islamic Republic of Iran maintains that Iraq's territorial integrity should not be violated. Such attacks expose the weakness of the Iraqi regime. Furthermore, attacks on innocent people are welcomed by the Ba'thist regime as an opportunity to maintain its attacks on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In short, the penetration of the Turkish Armed Forces into Iraq at a time when the revolutionary Muslims in that country and the Islamic fighters of Iran are dealing their final blows to the Iraqi regime will not help resolve Turkey's internal problems. Instead, this move may further complicate existing problems in the region.

Communique No 2,770 Updates Combat Operations

LD091612 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran smashed an Iraqi counterassault in the "Karbala'-7" operational theater in Hajj-'Umran, northeastern Iraq, Sunday afternoon, killing at least 40 Iraqi soldiers and wounding many others. A number of enemy soldiers were also captured.

Announcing the above Monday, the 2770th communique of the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that the number of Iraqi soldiers captured in the "Karbala'-7" operations reached 280.

In the "Karbala'-5" operational regional, Iraqi forces fired chemical shells at Iranian positions east of Basra early Sunday, but the timely counter-measures of Iranian anti-chemical weapons units neutralized the effects of the toxic gases. However, three Muslim combatants suffered superficial injuries.

Heavy Iranian artillery fire on an Iraqi motorized column carrying personnel in Chuman Mustafa, northwestern fronts, inflicted substantial casualties and losses on Iraqi troops.

In Panjwin, northwestern fronts, parts of Iraqi positions were set ablaze, and one enemy munitions dump and one vehicle destroyed by Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces responded to Iraqi artillery fire in parts of the southern and western fronts Sunday, killing several enemy soldiers and destroying 20 gun emplacements and observation posts, one command jeep and one anti-aircraft gun.

In the western fronts Sunday, Iranian artillery fire set afire and destroyed one Iraqi tank and several gun emplacements.

Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters were checked in Nahr-e 'Anbar, Chazzabeh, 'Eyn-Khvosh, southern fronts, Sunday, the communique concluded.